

# Tidy Towns Competition 2009

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Monageer** Ref: **266**  
County: **Wexford** Mark: **235**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **24/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	31
The Built Environment	50	34
Landscaping	50	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	18
Litter Control	50	32
Waste Minimisation	20	4
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>235</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Welcome to the 2009 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission, which included a completed application form, a well documented work programme and a clear map of the village. The village plan supplied was of great assistance to the adjudicator in finding the various locations and made the visit especially enjoyable. It is noted that you have been in contact with Wexford County Council regarding the under-grounding of overhead wire and it is to be hoped that you will be successful in this quest in the long term. Your all embracing PR efforts to drum up support amongst the wider community for TidyTown activities makes impressive reading.

### **The Built Environment:**

The presentation of the Green Flag school was certainly the highlight this year. The building had a colourful presentation and looked bright and cheerful especially when viewed from the Ballysimon Upper approach. The array of well presented window boxes certainly enhanced the attractive colour scheme and the brightly coloured entrance gates were most inviting to the visitor. The Church again looked magnificent as did the presentation of its grounds. The 1798 Memorial at the village hall is a most attractive feature and opposite, the Monageer Tavern with its presentation of tables and chairs outside, looks well. The GAA grounds are a fine facility well located close to the village core. It is good to see a FAS presence in this location.

### **Landscaping:**

The adjudicator is delighted to note that you have an ongoing programme of landscaping in hand. As previously mentioned the school presentation certainly illustrated this. The mature shrubbery here, with the nice feature of the old village pump, certainly sets a standard. Evidence of the committee's hard work, and their effective mobilisation of the wider community, is clearly to be seen in a number of hanging baskets, planted tubs, window boxes and flower beds throughout the village, which hugely enhances the natural

setting. At the Parish Hall grounds, ongoing maintenance work was being carried out on the day of adjudication and this area looked well. The hedge planted along the Ballysimon Lower Road is now maturing nicely and it is good to see that you have a plan for a wild flower garden. The Grotto Park is certainly a huge amenity in the village. It has a wonderful, mature woodland setting which has been further enhanced by the planting of additional appropriate trees. There is a great atmosphere here. The enclosed walkway surrounded by rhododendrons creates a warm, colourful ambience as at the beautiful natural rock face which houses the statue. The adjudicator understands that this is a pet project of one particular volunteer. Well done on this great effort!

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

As a rural village Monageer is rich in natural wildlife, green areas and habitats and perhaps a good way of raising awareness of environmental issues amongst the local community would be for the committee to further liaise with the Green Schools programme to encourage local wildlife surveys. The results could then be illustrated on bi-lingual, wildlife boards providing some interesting information points in the village.

### **Litter Control:**

The committee are to be commended on their involvement with the local school in the promotion of regular litter patrols. This is a valuable promotion to heighten awareness among the young. The efforts of the committee are obviously paying dividends as the village was almost litter free on the day of adjudication. A small amount of litter and two plastic bottles was noted on the grass margin on the Enniscorthy entrance road, but otherwise the village centre was relatively litter free.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

It is good to see that you have plans for a white goods collection and that the school children have commenced to segregate litter. To proceed further in marks under this heading, a good start would be to encourage the various sectors of the community to audit the amount of waste produced by themselves and to devise ways of reducing it, in addition to segregation for recycling. The Race Against Waste website contains a number of good ideas on this. It is to be hoped that this programme will be developed in the coming years and that more initiatives from this website will be adopted in the future.

### **Tidiness:**

Last year's adjudicator made a number of comments under this heading. Generally, there is much evidence of the committee's success in mobilising efforts to maintain the high standard of care and attention to detail prevalent throughout the village core.

### **Residential Areas:**

An Móin Rua again looks splendid. The grassed areas were neatly mown and the various shrubberies are well maintained. This scheme has an attractive layout and the linear grass space surrounded by fine stone wall provides a safe play area for children. A number of trees have already been planted inside the wall close by the entrance. If this were to be extended along the full length of the wall it would provide an attractive enclosure to the scheme. It was good to hear that the residents here carry out a maintenance programme themselves which was explained to the adjudicator by a resident on the day of adjudication. Gleann na gCaor is a well located scheme close to the village core. The design concept is a housing layout surrounding a village green and the green itself is nicely presented. The boundary wall along the entrance would benefit from the planting of a hedge along its length which would have a softening visual effect and provide enclosure in the long term. Móin na gCaor is not yet fully completed but the grass area was being mown on the day of adjudication. This scheme would benefit from additional tree and shrub planting in the long term. There is a very high standard of presentation to individual, private residences throughout the village.

### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The entrance roads from Ferns and Enniscorthy looked extremely well and are lined with mature trees, hedgerows, stone walls and strands of wild flowers. The name sign set in an attractive flower bed at the grotto was clear and well presented as was the flower bed on the grass margin opposite. Further along, the attractive loose stone wall opposite the Gleann na gCaor entrance was admired. The Ballysimon Upper entrance is certainly a gem. The attractively mixed hedgerows here and stone walls are a feature, whilst the thatched set at right angles to the road has great character and performs the visual function of providing a gateway to the village. As mentioned in last year's report, a number of surfaces would need some attention and if carried out would provide an immediate visual enhancement.

### **General Impression:**

Monageer is a charming village in a wonderful location and the commitment of the Tidy Towns committee is proving a great asset. We wish you well in your future plans.

